Reply of Government.—No change is needed.

Subject No. 204.

Settlement of the right of planters to topes.

Mr. Chinnappa.

Summary of discussion.—The planters of topes on Kharab lands were allowed to enjoy as Inam ¼th or the whole of the produce of such topes. But such rights were not decided during the Survey Settlement.

Reply of Government.—Individual cases, if any, will, on representation, be enquired into.

Subject No. 205.

Patels be made responsible for the good condition of topes.

Mr. Chika Subba Rao of Hunsur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—During the Survey and Settlement some lands have been set apart for charitable purposes, *i. e.*, for planting topes, etc. Such topes are now entirely neglected being used for storing manure, etc., by the villagers. It is requested that steps may be taken to plant fruit-bearing trees in such topes by the villagers concerned making the patel of each village responsible for keeping the same in good condition. The produce of such trees may be sold annually and the value thereof credited to Government.

Reply of Government.—Deputy Commissioners will be requested to do the needful to look after these topes.

Subject No. 206.

Permanent leasing of the right to collect honge leaves.

(a) Mr. M. Chinnappa (Srinivaspur Taluk.)
(b) Mr. H. Krishnachar, (Goribidnur Taluk.)

Summary of discussion.—(a) Raiyats are allowed to take honge leaves at Re. 1-12-0 per 100 trees. The system of selling the leaves is a source of trouble to raiyats by the Amarayi Izardars. It is desirable to dispose of the produce along with the leaves to the raiyats, thus freeing them from the disturbance of these Izardars.

(b) There are abundant Government honge trees in certain villages. The right of enjoying these leaves is sold to applicants once in three years at Re. 1-12-0 for 100 trees. When there are no applications owing to combination among the villagers, the Government realize nothing by this source. The villagers sell the fallen leaves and flowers to the neighbouring villagers at 12 annas per cart-load and make a profit to themselves. The right of removing the leaves may be permanently leased out to such of the raiyats who require them on payment of Re. 1-12-0 per 100 trees.

Reply of Government.—In such cases, the trees may be granted either to the Izardars or to any others. The matter will be considered.

Subject No. 207.

Abolition of Sayer duty.

Messrs. Nadig Sivappa, Bhaskar Rao, Keladi Venkappa, S. R. Balakrishna Rao, Shimoga Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—In the Dewan's address to the Representative Assembly last year, it was stated that though it is not possible to reduce the assessment on garden lands at present in consideration of the poor condition into which the garden owners in the Malnad have been reduced, yet the subject would receive the consideration of Government some time hence. The condition of the people in the Malnad is described below :—

Many of them are poor at present. They have been reduced to beggary their ancestral properties being sold

for arrears of kandayam. This will be evident from a perusal of the Land Revenue collection records in the Sorab, Sagar and Nagar Taluks. This state of things has been brought about by the unusually heavy garden assessment prevailing in this country, the heavy Land Revenue assessment and the increase in the wages paid to coolies. Besides to add to our misery, the lands in the Malnad are being resurveyed and a Notification has been published in the Gazette that as a result of the revision Survey, an increase of 20 per cent in the assessment on garden and wet lands and of 80 per cent on the assessment on dry lands would be made. It is therefore prayed that the benevolent Government may as heretofore take into its kind consideration the abject condition of the people in the Malnad and with a view to alleviate their sufferings may remit the duty on supari. As an instance of the heavy taxation in this country, it may be said that the tax paid per head in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies is Rs. 3-8-0 whereas that paid in the Malnad amounts to 8 or 10 rupees.

The duty on supari falls not on the consumer but on the producer. A large quantity of Mysore areca finds its market in British India and the Mysore producer will have to compete with the British Indian producer who pays no Sayer duty on his areca. Thus the Mysorian will have to sell his areca at a price which is 12 annas less than the price secured by the British Indian gardener. An acre of Bagayet land can contain from 350 to 400 fruit-bearing trees yielding on the average 24 maunds of areca. The cost of cultivation of such, amounts to (Rs. 16 a year and ಪಡಿಗ್ಗೆ 14 Rs.) =30 Rs. a year and the cost of collecting nuts and preparing them for market comes up to Rs. 60. The amount payable for Sayer duty at 12 annas a maund is Rs. 18. The assessment is Rs. 16 on the average. Thus the total outlay is Rs. 124 which means Rs. 5-2-0 per maund. The price of areca in the Malnad is generally Rs. 7 per maund. Thus, the garden owner if he himself cultivates his garden gets 1-14-0 per maund as net income. It is to be noted that it takes full 16 years for a garden to be fruit-bearing. The gardener and his people also work throughout the year.

NOTE.—This was taken up at the end and discussed. All the representatives in a body prayed for the abolition of the Sayer duty. The matter is being dealt with separately.

Subject No 208.

Abolition of Sayer duty.

Messrs. Surnarnappa, Venkataramaiya, Ramaswami Chetty of Arkalgud Taluk, N. Venkataramaiya, Hole Narsipur Municipality, Kigga Chennakesava Rao, Hedase Devara Sastri of Koppa Taluk, C. Srinivasa Rao of the Chikmagalur Taluk, Ramanuja Iyengar of Gubbi Taluk, Narnappa, Turuvekere, Gopalaiya and Davoodkhan.

Summary of discussion.—The imposition of Sayer duty may be kindly excused. The duty presses heavily on raiyats who in consequence are obliged to sell their produce to the local merchants for any price offered by them, instead of selling it in other places where there is demand for it. Some of the raiyats want a reduction in bagayet kandayam. The bagayet kandayam now levied having been revised recently it cannot be said that it is high and may therefore stand good.